

REMARKS

Claims 17-38 are pending in the application. In the Office Action dated March 8, 2004, the Examiner rejected Claims 35-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Further, Claims 17-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,768,356 ("McKendry"). In this Amendment, Claims 17, 18, 22, 23, 27, 28, and 32-37 have been amended and Claims 39-47 have been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in light of the amendment to the claims and the following remarks.

I. Claims 35-37

Independent Claims 35-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. In particular, the Examiner stated that the new language of "wherein the first telephone call is placed to a third telephone number not corresponding to any of the plurality of destination options" is not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

The above-quoted language of Claims 35-37 is at least supported in the specification of the current application on page 4, lines 24-29 and on page 6, lines 7-10. The specification discusses providing a telephone number to access the family telecommunications service. This telephone number may not correspond to a telephone number that directly connects to a family residence or a first or second location other than the family residences that correspond to the plurality of destination options. For example, the specification discloses providing a toll-free telephone number to access the family telecommunications service which provides the menu with a plurality of destination options. This toll-free number does not correspond to any of the destination options (e.g., a family residence or a first or second location other than the family residence). Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection to Claim 35-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

II. Claims 17-34

Claims 17-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McKendry. McKendry discloses a personal call manager located on a premises of a home office user to provide increased accessibility to an intended recipient. Generally, a caller places a telephone call to a main number for the purpose of speaking to a single intended recipient. In the relevant portion of McKendry, the call manager answers the telephone call and may provide a menu to the caller that provides options to route the telephone call to different locations associated with the intended recipient for the purpose of speaking with the single intended recipient only. For example, the menu may state, “. . . to call me on my car phone press one, to call me at my remote office press two, to leave me a voice message press three.” (Col 30, lines 16-18). After the caller chooses a menu option in order to reach the one intended recipient, the call may be routed to the desired extension located on or off the premises of the home office.

In contrast to McKendry, the current application is directed to a system that allows a user to call a single number in order to obtain a menu allowing the caller to choose to have their call routed to different locations for the purpose of speaking to different family members. As stated in the specification of the current application, “family members may be defined by blood relationships (e.g. a biological parent of a child) or legal relationships (e.g. a legal guardian of a child).”

Taking independent Claim 17 as an example, Claim 17 has been amended to recite a “menu providing a plurality of destination options including a first destination option **to reach a first family member** at a residence of a family, a second destination option **to reach a second family member** at a first location other than the residence, and a third destination option **to reach a third family member** at a second location other than the residence. . . .” Therefore, the currently claimed invention allows a caller to place a telephone call to a single number to obtain a menu that allows the caller to route the telephone call to one of multiple family members for the purpose of speaking with that particular family member. In contrast, McKendry is directed to a call manager that allows a caller to place a telephone call to a single number to obtain a menu that allows the caller to route the telephone call to one of multiple business extensions for the purpose of speaking with the single intended recipient only.

Nothing in McKendry discloses, or suggests, providing a menu to a caller wherein each option in the menu allows the caller to route their telephone call to a different location for the purpose of speaking with a different person. Moreover, nothing in McKendry discloses, or suggests, providing a call manager in the context of a family rather than a business. All of the independent claims in the presently claimed invention contain the limitation of providing a menu that allows a caller to place a telephone call to a single number to obtain a menu that allows the caller to route the telephone call to one of multiple family members for the purpose of speaking with that particular family member. Therefore, McKendry does not render Claims 17-34 unpatentable. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection to Claims 17-34 and any of its dependant claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

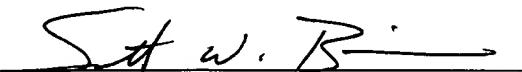
III. Claims 39-47

Even if Claims 17-37 are misinterpreted to read on McKendry, dependant Claims 39-47 are still allowable. Claims 39-47 recite that all of the plurality of destination options are for **members of a family**. As explained above, McKendry teaches a system located on a premises of a **home office user** to provide increased accessibility to an intended recipient. McKendry does not disclose, or suggest, at least the limitation of Claims 17-37 of providing a menu that allows a caller to route their telephone call to a plurality of destination options wherein all the plurality of destination options are for members of a family. Thus, McKendry does not render Claims 15-17 unpatentable.

IV. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested. If there are any questions concerning this Response, the Examiner is asked to phone the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4200.

Respectfully submitted,



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